

In the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A fire exit alert system comprising:
 - 2 fire exit door hardware having a case for mounting proximate a fire exit door;
 - 3 a control circuit mounted in the fire exit door hardware case, the control circuit
 - 4 including:
 - 5 a voice storage element for storing a pre-recorded voice signal co-located
 - 6 with the fire exit door hardware, the voice signal to be audibly broadcast
 - 7 from a location corresponding to the fire exit door hardware, the voice
 - 8 signal including words indicating in words that the source of the voice
 - 9 signal is being broadcast from the location of an exit;
 - 10 a trigger input adapted for receiving a fire detection signal from a fire
 - 11 detection system;
 - 12 a speaker output; and
 - 13 a light source output;
 - 14 a speaker connected to the speaker output of the control circuit for broadcasting
 - 15 an audibly locatable signal, comprising at least the pre-recorded voice
 - 16 signal, to indicate that ~~the source of the~~ pre-recorded voice signal is being
 - 17 audibly broadcast from the location of an exit, the pre-recorded voice signal
 - 18 allowing the public to determine that a safe exit is located at the source of
 - 19 the audibly locatable signal; and

20 a light source connected to the light source output for providing a visually
21 locatable indication of the location of the fire exit alert system;
22 the control circuit turning on the light source, retrieving the voice signal from
23 the voice storage element and repeatedly sending the voice signal to the
24 speaker output upon receipt of the fire detection signal.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 wherein the control
2 circuit coordinates the repeated voice signal and the light source by flashing the
3 light source when the voice signal is indicating in words that the voice signal is
4 being broadcast from the location ~~source of the voice signal is an exit.~~

1 3. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 wherein the voice signal includes
2 the word "HERE" to indicate that the source of the voice signal is an exit, and the
3 control circuit coordinates the repeated voice signal and the light source by flashing
4 the light source when the word "HERE" is sent to the speaker output.

1 4. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 wherein the light source is a strobe
2 light and wherein the control circuit coordinates the repeated voice signal and the
3 light source by flashing the strobe light at the moment the voice signal is indicating
4 that the source of the voice signal is an exit.

1 5. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 wherein the light source is a laser.

1 6. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 5 wherein the laser produces a cone
2 having an apex at the fire exit alert system to provide a visual direction guide
3 towards the fire exit alert system.

1 7. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 wherein the light source is a strobe
2 light and the fire exit alert system further includes a second light source comprising
3 a laser.

1 8. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 7 wherein the control circuit
2 coordinates the repeated voice signal and at least one of the light sources by
3 activating at least one of the light sources when the voice signal is indicating that
4 the source of the voice signal is an exit.

1 9. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 7 wherein the control circuit
2 coordinates the repeated voice signal and the strobe light by flashing the strobe
3 light when the voice signal is indicating that the source of the voice signal is an
4 exit.

1 10. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 wherein the control circuit further
2 includes a white noise signal generator, the control circuit sending the white noise
3 signal to the speaker output to produce an additional audibly locatable signal.

1 11. (Previously Amended) The fire exit alert system of claim 10 wherein the control
2 circuit alternately sends the white noise signal and the voice signal to the speaker
3 output.

1 12. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 wherein the fire exit door
2 hardware comprises an exit device having a latch for engaging a door frame of a fire
3 exit door.

1 13. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 wherein the fire exit door
2 hardware comprises an automatic door closer.

1 14. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 wherein the control circuit further
2 includes a reset input for receiving a reset signal, the control circuit turning off the
3 light source and the speaker output upon receipt of the reset signal.

1 15. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 further including a backup battery
2 for powering the fire exit alert system during a power failure.

1 16. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 further including a smoke
2 detector connected to the trigger input of the control circuit.

1 17. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 further including a heat detector
2 connected to the trigger input of the control circuit.

1 18. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 1 further including an illuminated
2 exit sign.

1 19. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 18 where in the illuminated exit
2 sign comprises an electroluminescent illuminated exit sign.

1 20. (Currently Amended) A fire exit alert system comprising:

2 an exit device for a fire exit door, the exit device having a case for mounting
3 proximate the fire exit door;

4 a control circuit mounted in the exit device case, the control circuit including:

5 a voice storage element for storing a pre-recorded voice signal co-located
6 with the exit device, the voice signal to be audibly broadcast from a
7 location corresponding to the exit device, the voice signal including
8 words indicating ~~in words that the source of the voice signal is being~~
9 broadcast from the location of an exit;

10 a trigger input adapted for receiving a fire detection signal from a fire
11 detection system;

12 a white noise signal generator;

13 a speaker output; and

14 first and second light source outputs;
 15 a speaker connected to the speaker output of the control circuit for repeatedly
 16 broadcasting the pre-recorded voice signal and the white noise signal to
 17 provide an audible direction guide towards the fire exit alert system;
 18 a strobe light connected to the first light source output; and
 19 a laser connected to the second light source output, the laser producing a cone
 20 having an apex at the fire exit alert system to provide a visual direction guide
 21 towards the fire exit alert system;
 22 the control circuit flashing the strobe light in coordination with the voice signal.

1 21. (Currently Amended) A fire exit alert system comprising:
 2 an automatic door closer for a fire exit door, the door closer having a case for
 3 mounting proximate the fire exit door;
 4 a control circuit mounted in the door closer case, the control circuit including:
 5 a voice storage element for storing a pre-recorded voice signal co-located
 6 with the automatic door closer, the voice signal including words
 7 indicating in words that the source of the voice signal is being broadcast
 8 from the location of an exit;
 9 a trigger input adapted for receiving a fire detection signal from a fire
 10 detection system;
 11 a white noise signal generator;
 12 a speaker output; and

13 first and second light source outputs;
14 a speaker connected to the speaker output of the control circuit for repeatedly
15 broadcasting the voice signal and the white noise signal to provide an
16 audible direction guide towards the fire exit alert system;
17 a strobe light connected to the first light source output; and
18 a laser connected to the second light source output, the laser producing a cone
19 having an apex at the fire exit alert system to provide a visual direction guide
20 towards the fire exit alert system;
21 the control circuit flashing the strobe light in coordination with the voice signal.

1 22. (Currently Amended) A fire exit alert system comprising:
2 a control circuit including:
3 a voice storage element for storing a pre-recorded voice signal, the voice
4 signal including words indicating ~~in words that the source of the voice~~
5 signal is being broadcast from the location of an exit;
6 a trigger input adapted for receiving a fire detection signal from a fire
7 detection system;
8 a speaker output; and
9 a light source output;
10 a speaker connected to the speaker output of the control circuit for broadcasting
11 an audibly locatable signal, comprising at least the voice signal, to indicate
12 that the source of the voice signal is an exit; and

13 a light source connected to the light source output for providing a visually
14 locatable indication of the location of the fire exit alert system;
15 the control circuit turning on the light source, retrieving the voice signal from
16 the storage element and repeatedly sending the voice signal to the speaker
17 output upon receipt of the fire detection signal.

1 23. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 22 wherein the control circuit
2 coordinates the repeated voice signal and the light source by flashing the light
3 source when the voice signal is indicating that the source of the voice signal is an
4 exit.

1 24. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 22 wherein the voice signal
2 includes the word "HERE" to indicate that the source of the voice signal is an exit,
3 and the control circuit coordinates the repeated voice signal and the light source by
4 flashing the light source when the word "HERE" is sent to the speaker output.

1 25. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 22 wherein the light source is a
2 strobe light and wherein the control circuit coordinates the repeated voice signal
3 and the light source by flashing the strobe light at the moment the voice signal is
4 indicating that the source of the voice signal is an exit.

1 26. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 22 wherein the light source is a
2 laser.

1 27. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 26 wherein the laser produces a
2 cone having an apex at the fire exit alert system to provide a visual direction guide
3 towards the fire exit alert system.

1 28. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 22 wherein the light source is a
2 strobe light and the fire exit alert system further includes a second light source
3 comprising a laser.

1 29. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 28 wherein the control circuit
2 coordinates the repeated voice signal and at least one of the light sources by
3 activating at least one of the light sources when the voice signal is indicating that
4 the source of the voice signal is an exit.

1 30. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 28 wherein the control circuit
2 coordinates the repeated voice signal and the strobe light by flashing the strobe
3 light when the voice signal is indicating that the source of the voice signal is an
4 exit.

1 31. (Original) The fire exit alert system of claim 22 wherein the control circuit
2 further includes a white noise signal generator, the control circuit sending the white
3 noise signal to the speaker output to produce an additional audibly locatable signal.

1 32. (Previously Amended) The fire exit alert system of claim 31 wherein the control
2 circuit alternately sends the white noise signal and the voice signal to the speaker
3 output.